

MED. INTEL

ELLESMERE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

L. WILSON EVANS, M.C., M.B., D.P.H.

FOR THE YEAR

1941



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THE ELLESMERE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

As for last year the Ministry of Health has decided that the Report for 1941 should be confined to essential and urgent matters which have affected the public health during the year.

I am,
 Your obedient Servant,
 L. WILSON EVANS.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Qualifications.</i>	<i>Office held.</i>	<i>Whole or Part time.</i>
L. Wilson Evans	M.B., B.S., L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part.
E. Wilkinson	M.I.M. & CY.E., M.R.SAN.I.	Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.	Whole.

ELLESMERE RURAL DISTRICT.

Extracts from vital statistics for the year 1941.

Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	13.5	
Birth Rate, Ellesmere Urban District	...	...	...	...	14.6	
Birth Rate, England and Wales	...	...	...	...	14.2	
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—						
Rate per 1,000 births	...	...	...	...	28	
Ellesmere Urban District	...	...	...	...	30	
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	59	
Still births	...	...	...	3 M., — F.		Total 3
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	.38	
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	.51	
Death Rate	...	...	...	...	10.7	
Death Rate, England and Wales	...	...	...	...	12.9	
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	...	8 M., 4 F.		Total 12
Deaths from Measles	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1 M., 1 F.		Total 2
Deaths from Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	...	2.23

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

	Total Cases.	No. of cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.	Case rate per 1,000 population.	England & Wales.
Scarlet Fever	9	2	—	1.16	1.47
Diphtheria	4	3	1	.52	1.25
Whooping Cough	23	—	—	1.94	4.39
Measles	83	—	—	10.72	10.33
Pneumonia	10	—	5	1.32	1.25
Dysentery	46	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—
Cerebrospinal Fever ...	1	—	—	.13	.25
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	.06
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	per 1,000 total births	11.91

Of the four cases of Diphtheria two were in boarding schools ; of the remaining two, one had had the second dose for immunisation three weeks before the onset of the disease which had therefore not had time to take full effect, but the disease was of a very mild form. The other child had not been immunised. The death recorded was an old woman who contracted the disease while an inmate of a public assistance institution outside your district where there was an outbreak of the disease, and was not notified in this district.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Diphtheria	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Sc. Fever	1	1	3	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	37	4	9	5	1	10	12	1	—	—	—	1
Wh. Cough	1	—	4	—	1	11	1	1	—	—	3	—
Pneumonia	—	4	1	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	—

	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	30-45	45-60	Ov. 60
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
Sc. Fever	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	4	4	5	6	40	17	2	3	2	—	—
Wh. Cough	1	1	6	3	2	6	3	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	1	—	2	1

Measles continued throughout the first half of the year. The majority of cases were a continuation of the outbreak which occurred during the latter part of 1940. Despite the considerable number of cases it is gratifying to be able to report that no deaths occurred, the case mortality is often about 5 per cent. No deaths occurred from Measles during 1940 nor 1941, when 166 cases were notified and probably a number of others were not recorded. Measles is generally a disease of the early years. In this outbreak twice as many children were notified between the ages of 5 and 10 as those under 5. The significance of this suggests the school as a means of spreading the disease.

The 5 deaths from Pneumonia against the 10 cases notified does not give a true picture of the mortality of the disease. Actually only 2 of the cases notified died. The remaining deaths occurred in residents of the district, but who were at the time residing elsewhere, or had not been notified. Some practitioners have not yet developed the habit of notifying cases of pneumonia and so tend to give a wrong impression of the number of cases they fail to cure.

The outbreak of Dysentery occurred in a residential institution for mentally defective boys, the sort of community which is liable to outbreaks of this disease, although I am unaware that this particular institution has had a previous outbreak. Forty-six cases were notified over a period of three weeks. All the cases except two occurred in the first nine days, these last two developing at an interval of a week each to finish the outbreak. B Flexner was isolated in most cases. The distribution was as follows :

Number of cases on days of outbreak.

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	16th	23rd
2	6	17	8	1	5	3	1	1	1	1

There were in addition 11 persons where the organism was found in the stools.

There are two houses in the grounds of the institution which are practically independent communities the occupants only mixing occasionally or for outdoor games. In the one house where the outbreak started there were 71, staff and boys, 42 were notified and 8 others infected. In the other house with 55 inmates 4 were notified and 3 others infected.

The cause of the outbreak was not ascertained. Suspicion fell on the cook whose stools were found to contain B Flexner, but as the organism was also found at the same time in the stools of two boys helping in the kitchen they may all have been infected from another source. The cook had been at the school for three months. There was nothing definite in his past history to point to him as a carrier.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows :

Under 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	166
Over 5 years of age	...	...	...	...	677
					<hr/> 843 <hr/>

Immunisation made great progress. The figures are probably considerably better than those given as complete returns have not been received from the medical practitioners. 75 per cent. of all children in the schools had been immunised by the end of the year. The figure is reduced through the rather poor figures among the evacuated children in some schools, although they are being improved. It was surprising to find that so few children coming into the district from the large towns had been immunised.

The percentage among Shropshire children was 85%.

No school of the 13 has less than 70 per cent. ; one has 100 per cent. and 4 have 90 per cent. and over, and although the evacuated children bring the figures down in some schools, 11 out of the 13 schools have 70 per cent. or over of all children immunised. Among the children under 5 years 56 per cent. have been immunised or are waiting to be done. Among the 23 districts in the County your district is second for children over 5 years and third for those under 5 years ; and it is first among the ten Rural Districts for children over 5 years and second for those under 5 years.

The Council adopted the sessional basis of payment during the year of doctors doing Diphtheria Immunisation. This, while materially reducing the cost, gives reasonable remuneration to the Medical Practitioners.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Notifications.

<i>Respiratory.</i>		<i>Deaths.</i>		<i>Non-respiratory.</i>		<i>Deaths.</i>	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
3	1	3	1	1	—	—	1
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	
4		4		1		1	
<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>	

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

During 1941 one complaint was received regarding the quality of the well water used for domestic and drinking purposes and on analysis it was found to be highly polluted. The well has been repaired since and no further complaints received. Other sources of supply are as in previous years and further use is being made of Liverpool Corporation Water and also the piped supply at Nesscliff Hill. No complaints have been received of shortage of supply of water.

MILK SUPPLY.

During the last two or three years, even under war conditions, there has been a marked improvement in methods of milk production. Any suggestions have received attention and there has been a ready response to advice due probably to the desire to become "Accredited." While the number of accredited licencees has not increased to the desired extent, much has been done towards that end. The inspections of the accredited farms by the County Sanitary Inspector and of others by myself and the Dairy Companies' Inspector have had their effect as far as general cleanliness is concerned. Tenant farmers cannot carry out drastic improvements to their premises for obvious reasons and landlords do not co-operate as one would desire.

The methods are good and cleanliness as far as the milkers are concerned is also good. With regard to water supply ; this is the one item that stands in the way of increased numbers of accredited licensees, but there are continued improvements and no farm suffers from an acute shortage at any season of the year. A few farms have to be somewhat careful in the use of water.

The quality in all cases is good.

Many farms are now fitted with milking machines as a result of labour shortage.

The shortage of labour in the district is not very acute on farms.

